

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(canceled)

2.(currently amended): An imitation candle ~~as set forth in claim 1, further~~
comprising:

a wax shell having an interior central cavity defined by an interior surface
of the wax shell;

an insert having a different thermal coefficient of expansion than the wax
shell, the insert being positioned in the interior central cavity to leave a
gap between the insert and the interior wall of the interior central
cavity; and

a wax bonding layer ~~between~~ disposed in a portion of the gap between the
insert and the interior surface of the wax shell, the bonding layer
extending from a deepest point of the cavity toward the entry surface to
define the gap between the insert and the interior surface near any
exterior edges of the wax shell. to positionally retain the insert in the
wax shell while relieving and redirecting stress stemming from
differential expansion and contraction of the insert and the wax shell
due to changes in temperature.

3.(canceled)

4.(currently amended): An imitation candle as set forth in claim 1, further
comprising:

~~the gap being filled with air.~~ the wax bonding layer being formed from a
pour of molten wax into a previously cast and hardened wax shell and
placement of the insert into the molten wax to force the molten wax to

spread around and conform to the insert between the insert and interior surface before hardening into the bonding layer.

5.(currently amended): An imitation candle as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:
such portion of the gap not filled by the wax bonding layer being filled with air.

6.(canceled)

7.(currently amended): An imitation candle as set forth in claim 5, wherein the interior central cavity and the gap extend into the wax shell from ~~a bottom surface~~ an open end of the wax shell.

8.(canceled):

9.(original): An imitation candle as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

the insert providing a source of artificial illumination.

10.(canceled)

11.(original): An imitation candle as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:

a plurality of edges between surfaces of the shell exhibiting substantial angles of intersection being rounded.

12.(canceled)

13.(currently amended): A process for making an imitation candle comprising the steps of:

casting a shell from molten wax;

forming a central cavity from a bottom surface of the shell into the interior of the shell;

after hardening of the shell making a second ~~casting~~ pouring of wax ~~within~~ into the central cavity with the shell inverted, the second casting comprising a substantially reduced quantity of wax; and

inserting a module into the central cavity with the shell still inverted and the second pour of wax still molten to displace the, the act of inserting displacing molten wax of the second ~~casting~~ pouring to form a bonding layer between the module and the shell upon cooling of the wax, the combined volume of the module and the wax from the second pouring being substantially less than that required to fill the central cavity.

14.(currently amended): The process as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the step of:

~~after~~ leaving a wax free gap between a portion of the module and the interior surface of the central cavity.